

Appln No. 10/672,186
Amdt date July 23, 2007
Reply to Office action of April 24, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings in the Appendix includes changes to FIGs. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Attachment: All Formal Drawings, Figs. 1 - 8
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes to Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1-6 are now in the application. Claims 1-3 have been amended. Claim 6 is new. The Applicant has amended the Specification to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Drawings

The Examiner stated that Figs. 1a, 1b, and 1c should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art." Accordingly, Figs. 1a, 1b, and 1c now include that designation.

The Examiner has objected to the Drawings because Fig. 1a contains a handwritten reference number to element A, because the Figures purportedly lack appropriate labels, and because Fig. 3 is out of sequence with Fig. 2. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4. The amended replacement drawings are attached. The amended replacement drawings are now in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d).

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the title for purportedly not being descriptive. The Applicant has amended the title to "METHOD OF DETERMINING THE ROUTING OF INTERCONNECTED REGIONS."

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 2-5 because of informalities. As requested by the Examiner, the Applicant has replaced "A" with "The" in Claims 2 and 4-5. In addition, "shared boundaries" in Claim 4 now has proper antecedent basis.

In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully requested that the above objections be withdrawn.

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Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Andreev et al. (U.S. 2001/0018759).

The Applicant's amended Claim 1 includes (underlining added for emphasis) "... attempting to resolve crossing conflicts only when at least some contextual information about a region and the paths that cross in the region has been assembled." The Applicant submits that Andreev et al. does not teach the above limitation.

Andreev et al., while providing for the resolution of conflicts related to congestion (paragraphs [0088] and [0092], also 77 of Fig. 18), does not provide the above limitation. In Andreev et al., the relative wire congestion among different areas in the integrated circuit design is determined, and nets passing though areas with a relatively high wire congestion are rerouted (abstract; claim 1; claim 11; claim 21; paragraphs [0088], [0092], [0190], [0219], [0220], [0237]; 77 of Fig. 18). Thus, while providing for conflicts related to congestion, Andreev et al. does not provide for (underlining added for emphasis) "attempting to resolve crossing conflicts only when at least some contextual information about a region and the paths that cross in the region has been assembled."

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Andreev et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In addition, neither Andreev et al. nor any of the other references of record suggests the step quoted above or would lead a worker skilled in the art to conclude that such a step would be useful. Furthermore, there is no suggestion or motivation in the references themselves, or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or to combine the reference teachings to achieve the method of Claim 1. Thus, the method of Claim 1 would not have been obvious over the references of record at the time the invention was made, and Claim 1 is therefore allowable.

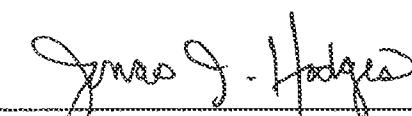
Claims 2-5 are dependent on Claim 1 and therefore include all of the limitations of Claim 1 and additional limitations therein. As such, these claims are also allowable based upon Claim 1 and the additional limitations.

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Therefore, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. As such, allowance of the above Application is requested. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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